

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 /054 W
-----041323Z 051390 /44

R 041000Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY MBABANE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1476
INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY MASERU
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

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CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PGOV, WZ
SUBJECT: IMPLICATIONS OF KING SOBHUZA'S ANNOUNCEMENT ON
NEW "PARLIAMENT"

REF: MBABANE 0719

1. NO ELABORATION HAS BEEN FORTHCOMING CONCERNING TIMING OR METHOD OF IMPLEMENTATION OF KING SOBHUZA'S MARCH 22 ANNOUNCEMENT ON SELECTION OF NEW "PARLIAMENTARIANS." EMBASSY'S ASSESSMENT OF LIKELY IMPLICATIONS, CONFIRMED BY SOUNDINGS IN LOCAL AND DIPLOMATIC COMMUNITIES, SHAPES UP AS FOLLOWS.
 2. KING WAS SO VAGUE IN ANNOUNCING TINKHUNDLA-BASED SCHEME FOR SELECTING NEW "PARLIAMENTARIANS" THAT THERE NO QUESTION HE
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INTENDS KEEP TIGHT HOLD ON REINS. WE THEREFORE ANTICIPATE NO SUBSTANTIAL CHANGE, DURING KING'S LIFETIME, FROM CURRENT POLICY OF BALANCING SOUTH AFRICAN AND MOZAMBIKAN INTERESTS. THIS MEANS SWAZILAND'S CONTINUING TO ARREST SOUTH AFRICAN POLICE WHO ILLEGALLY CROSS BORDER BUT ALSO COOPERATING WITH SOUTH AFRICAN POLICE TO INTERDICT FLOW OF DAGGA (MARIJUANA) FROM SWAZILAND

INTO REPUBLIC. IT MEANS SWAZILAND'S ACCEPTING SOUTH AFRICAN REFUGEES TO MAINTAIN ITS CREDENTIALS WITH BLACK AFRICAN STATES BUT AVOIDING ANY ANTI-REPUBLIC RHETORICA IN THE PROCESS. IT ALSO MEANS SWAZILAND'S ESCORTING OUT UNWANTED FRELIMO PEOPLE WHILE SPORADICALLY DECLARING AS "PROHIBITED IMMIGRANTS" VARIOUS FORMER PORTUGUESE RESIDENTS OF MOZAMBIQUE WHOM GPRM WANTS REMOVED FROM SWAZILAND.

3. KING'S ANNOUNCEMENT THAT "PARLIAMENT" (WHATEVER SELECTION MECHANISM IS EMPLOYED) WOULD AGAIN BE CONVENED SEEMS TO HAVE MORE IMPLICATIONS FOR DOMESTIC FRONT. SINCE SUSPENSION OF ELECTED PARLIAMENT IN APRIL 1973, THERE HAS BEEN NO PLACE FOR ORGANIZED OPPOSITION TO OR EVEN CRITICISM OF GOS POLICIES. MEETINGS OF NEW "PARLIAMENT" COULD RPT COULD BE FIRST STEP IN LIFTING LID OFF AND COULD LEAD, EVER SO SLOWLY AND SUBTLY, TO INTRODUCTION OF MORE DEMOCRATIC WAYS IN POST-SOBHUZA ERA.

4. ON BASIS FOREGOING, EMBASSY FORESEES NO MEANINGFUL CHANGE IN SWAZILAND POLICIES THAT WOULD PROMPT A NEW USG STANCE IN SHORT-TERM, PROBABALY COVERING SOBHUZA'S LIFETIME.
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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 04-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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Litigation History:
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